THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Tourism continues to be the same as stipulated in the National Action Plan for Tourism presented in the Parliament in May, 1992. It envisages the development of tourism through the joint efforts of the Central Government, State Governments and the Private Sector.

(c) For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, projects/schemes amounting to Rs. 5115.10 lakhs (approx.) which includes Rs. 185.00 lakhs for the State of Punjab have been prioritised for the year 1994-95.

Model Airports

357. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start a modernisation programme to turn 12 airports in the country into model airpors and upgrode the Air Traffic services in two key international airports of Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these airports would include extension of runways, doubling passenger handling capacity and upgarding communication and navigational aids which were in various stages of completion; and

(d) if so, the total cost of estimated amount is to be spent on turning into model airports and upgrade the facilities of airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Upgradation of airports is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon projected requirement and availability of resources. NAA have taken up the projects of developing 12 domestic airports as Model Airports at a total cost of Rs. 256.56 crores viz. Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Indore, Vadodara, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Calicut, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Imphal. The programme includes construction of new terminal buildings, expansion of existing terminal buildings wherever necessary and possible extension of runway to 7500, provision of latest land aids and other operational infrastructures. The project for the modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Bombay airports envisages, installation of modern radars and navigational aids and introduction of automation in air traffic management. The cos of modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Bombay airports will be around Rs. 352 crores.

Nail charges at Ashoka Hotel New Delhi

358. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the normal rate of charge made at the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi like nail charge etc. to compensate for possible damage to the concerned banquet hall from the concerned persons;

(b) whether the same charges were recovered from the persons concerned who had thrown a lavish dinner on 3rd May, 1994 vide Bill No. 1383 of the hotel; and

(c) name of person or persons who had thrown the dinner, if not, why normal nail charge etc. were not recovered and what other concessions were granted to them while letting out the Convention Hall to the private party?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) while booking the banquet parties, no charges such as nail charges are levied from the parties as per the practice in the hotel.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The dinner party was booked by Shri Narinder Aggarwal. No concession was granted to the party and the regular rate was charged.

Ban on serving of liquor on flights

359. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have banned serving of liquor by the private air taxi operators of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite the fact that serving of liquor in flights was considered violation of the established practices so far observed in the country, the permission was given to the air taxis;

(c) number of cases of misbehaviour by the passengers on board after serving reported to Government together with the details; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that the ban on serving liquor on flights is observed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Under the existing Aircraft Rules serving of liquor on board the flight is not prohibited.

(c) Information is being collected.

(d) Implementation of the order is being monitored.

Ban on transfer of officials in PSUs

360. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether one-year ban has been imposed by the Ministry on the transfer of officials in its public sector undertakings like T.A., TAAT etc.; and

(b) if so, when the ban is expected to take effect from?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Absorption of Vayudoot Staff

361. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is absorbing the Vayudoot staff within and outside the company; and

(b) if so, the names of the staff alongwith their qualifications taken over by Indian Airlines alongwith the absorption in other undertakings/companies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Indian Airlines is absorbing Vayudoot staff in the newly created Short Haul Operations Department in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government.

(b) So far appointment letters have been issued to two handicapped (blind) employees namely Mr. Mangal Sen and Mr. Mukta Prasad.

Modernisation and upgradation of airports

362. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of modernisation and upgradation of each one of the 130 airports in the country;

(b) the project cost and the amount incurred at each of the airports with detailed equipment; and

(c) the time frame for the completion of the job alongwith the financial outlay?